

## PLANNING BOARD

Monday, August 8, 2005  
Belmont Corner Meeting House  
Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present: Chairman P. Harris; C. Patten, J. Marden and R. Caldwell.  
Members Absent: J. Pike, G. Flack and W. Peterson.  
Alternates Present: C. Shibles.  
Alternates Absent: C. Gilbert.  
Staff: R. Ball and E. Murphy.

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and appointed C. Shibles as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

### **BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by C. Patten, seconded by C. Shibles, it was voted to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2005, meeting as submitted.

### **FIRE PROTECTION:**

P. Harris thanked Fire Chief Siegel for coming to educate the Board on the different types of fire suppression systems and what the fire department requires of new developments.

Fire Chief Siegel explained that there are three types of systems. The first is a local system which is smoke and heat detectors. They are life safety devices designed to get you out of house. The second is a full fire detection system which detects smoke, heat and flames and is mainly used for commercial buildings. The third is a residential sprinkler system that goes off when temperatures reach 135° and is activated in 30 seconds and starts putting out the fire. There is a 275 gallon pressurized water tank in the basement that contains enough water to keep the sprinklers working for 10 to 15 minutes. It starts to put the fire out and allows you to get out of the house and call the fire department. They do not have a direct signal to the fire department. There are designs that are hooked directly to a well will hold pressure for 20 minutes. J. Marden wanted to know how many sprinkler heads are in a typical three bedroom home. Chief Siegel stated about seven or eight. Another alternative is to install a cistern.

R. Caldwell wanted to know what the estimated cost for a sprinkler system is for a three bedroom home. Chief Siegel stated that it between \$3,000 and \$4,000 if it is done during construction. R. Caldwell wanted to know the benefit of having a residential sprinkler system vs a cistern. Chief Siegel stated that a sprinkler system will go off the minute the fire is detected, it is like having a fireman on duty in the home twenty-four hours a day

seven days a week. It is also a selling point.

R. Ball wanted to know if there are any maintenance concerns. Chief Siegel stated that you have to make sure the system doesn't freeze. You need to check and maintain the pressure gauges and make sure there is water in the tank. He stated that there has never been a multi-death situation where a sprinkler system has been used. J. Marden wanted to know if there is a cost associated with having the system hooked up directly to the fire department. Chief Siegel stated that there may be a fee from the alarm company who monitors the system.

Fire Chief Siegel explained that they give the developers a chance to determine the fire system they want to use for a development. He welcomes the opportunity to talk to the developers at the beginning of the project to determine the best system for a particular development.

The Board wanted to know if the fire department had anything that they would not want to see in a development. The Chief stated that he doesn't want to see dead end roads and hammer heads. They prefer two way roads or cul de sacs. This allows room for emergency vehicles to pass on the road at a fire scene. The cul de sacs allows for a turn around area for equipment instead of having to back up. This is a safety issue.

The Chief explained that a cistern designed for 30 homes should be capable of providing 1,000 gallons a minute for thirty minutes. This allows time for mutual aid to arrive. When mutual aid arrives they start to refill the cistern so that when they leave the system is recharge and ready for the next emergency.

J. Marden stated that in a perfect world there would be both a sprinkler system and a cistern. Chief Siegel agreed in but in reality they require one or the other. He prefers the sprinkler system because it is like having a firefighter on duty twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. P. Harris stated the few developers that have been through the process seem to be supportive of sprinkler system. J. Marden wanted to know if sprinklers are installed in the attic. Chief Siegel stated that they are not because they are subject to freezing in the winter and in the summer they would be activated because of the hot temperatures. Commercial buildings have dry systems in the attic areas. J. Marden stated that if there is an electric fire in the attic of a residential unit the sprinklers would not be activated. The Chief stated that that is true but a smoke detector would not be activated either. Fire detectors are not required in attics but one is required on each floor and in the bedrooms. J. Marden wanted to know what some of the causes of false alarms are in multi-family units. Chief Siegel stated they could be the use of incense candles or the steam from hot showers. People take hot showers without using the fan and when they open the door the steam escapes the room and sets off the detector. He explained that after educating the tenants on what happened they usually don't have repeat calls.

C. Shibles wanted to know when they build a cul de sac if they are still trying to build it so an aerial truck can get around. Chief Siegel stated that is right. A concern is snow reducing the width of the road because it is gets pushed to the side of the road making the width of the travel way narrower.

J. Marden wanted to know about commercial developments and the need to get around the back side of buildings. Chief Siegel stated that they prefer to have access to four sides of a building but have made compromises by allowing sprinkler or alarm systems in buildings that don't have access on all sides because of slopes or other issues. A walk way around the building may be required. They look at each building on its own

merit.

J. Marden wanted to know if the fire department is measuring driveways. Chief Siegel explained that it is being done for safety reasons to determine what is needed to fight a fire. He explained that stripes are put on a pole at the end of a driveway and the number of stripes on the poles helps determine how much hose is needed or what other equipment is needed to fight the fire.

J. Marden wanted to know if the fire department signs off on sprinkler systems and cisterns once they have been installed. Chief Siegel stated that they go out and inspect the systems.

P. Harris thanked the Chief for coming and educating the Board on the different types of systems. Chief Siegel stated that he welcomed the opportunity as well as the opportunity to review development plans when they come before the Board. If the Board has any questions or would like him to attend any other meetings they just need to contact him.

#### **STAFF REPORT:**

##### **A. PLANNING PROJECTS:**

R. Ball wanted to know if the Board had any planning projects that they want to work on in the upcoming year. P. Harris wanted to know how much money they put in the budget last year for projects. R. Ball stated that he thought it was \$15,000. J. Marden wanted to know if they received the quote from Mr. Bruce Mayberry to do the Impact Feasibility Study. R. Ball stated that C. Daigle has contacted him and is waiting on an estimate. J. Marden suggested that they wait to the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to find out what the cost of the study would be. R. Caldwell suggested that they review the cost for last year's project to determine the amount of those projects and then add to it for new projects

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by C. Patten, seconded by R. Caldwell, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine M Murphy  
Administrative Assistant